

**ABSTRACT**

A storage system and method for protecting data on a physical volume at the file system level and permitting access to the data at the physical volume level. The storage system includes a first interface for file level I/O, a second interface for block level I/O, plural physical volumes upon which logical volumes are represented and which permit an appropriate sized file system to be created to store archived data, a first controller which processes file level I/O requests, and a second controller which processes block level I/O requests. The first and second controllers share protection information for the logical and physical volumes. Archived data, stored from the first interface and protected at the file level, is accessed from the first and second interfaces, and is protected whichever interface is used. Alternatively a network attached storage (NAS) gateway is included to provide the first interface for file level I/O.